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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,277	12/27/2000	Jae-Lag Ma	8733.363.00	4729

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EXAMINER

RUDE, TIMOTHY L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2883

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims and Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 is amended. Claim 13 is added. Objection to claim 6 is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

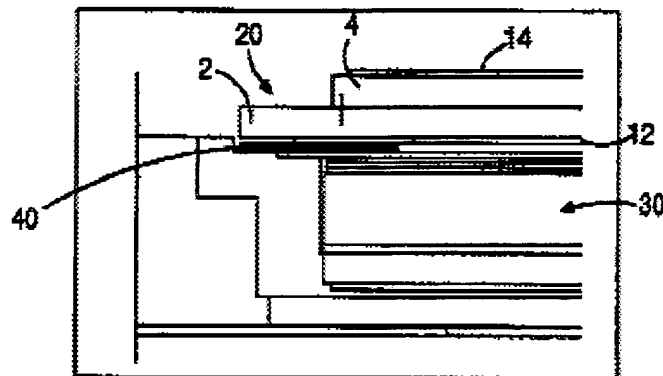
This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 6-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (APA) in view of Dingwall et al (Dingwall) USPAT 5,307,188.

As to claims 6 and 9-13, APA discloses in Figures 1-4 (Specification pages 2-4), a dot matrix (Specification, Page 2, lines 18-22) liquid crystal display (LCD) device, comprising:

Fig. 1

(Conventional Art)



an upper polarizer, 14; on an upper substrate, 4, having a color filter (not shown, specification, page 3, first para);

a lower substrate, 2, on a lower polarizer, 12;

a liquid crystal layer (not shown) disposed between the upper substrate and the lower substrate; and

a backlight device, 30, disposed opposite and adjacent to the lower polarizer for emitting light toward the lower polarizer (Figure 1) (please note that adjacent does not

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preclude structures between those items considered to be adjacent, e.g., two houses may be adjacent despite the existence of an intervening garage); wherein at least a black pad, 40, that acts as a light shield (Applicant's light shielding layer) formed in a rectangular shape having a substantially centrally located rectangular opening resulting in light shielding layer substantially shielding exclusively the peripheral portion (evident from Specification, Page 3, lines 11-14) of the lower polarizer to permit light to pass through the rectangular opening; wherein the light shielding layer only blocks a portion of the light traveling to four peripheral sides of the lower polarizer for minimizing constructive interference at a peripheral portion of the LCD device; and wherein the light shielding film absorbs light (inherent property of the color black).

Please note that some of Applicant's newly added limitations are intended use in nature, wherein each intended use does not substantially further limiting the device claim and as such is considered met by the applied prior art.

APA does not explicitly disclose a lower polarizer that includes said light shielding film.

Dingwall teaches in Figures 2 and 3 (col. 5, lines 33-40 and col. 7, line 60 through col. 8 line 28), a liquid crystal display (LCD) device, comprising: a lower substrate, 236b, on a lower polarizer, 237b, that includes an opaque black mask, 235 (Applicant's light shielding film), to provide greater flexibility by first printing the black mask to define the image elements (or viewing area) with minimal alignment concerns to eliminate light leaks and allow the use of a true black mask rather than a gray mask

to provide a true dead front (col. 5, lines 33-46).

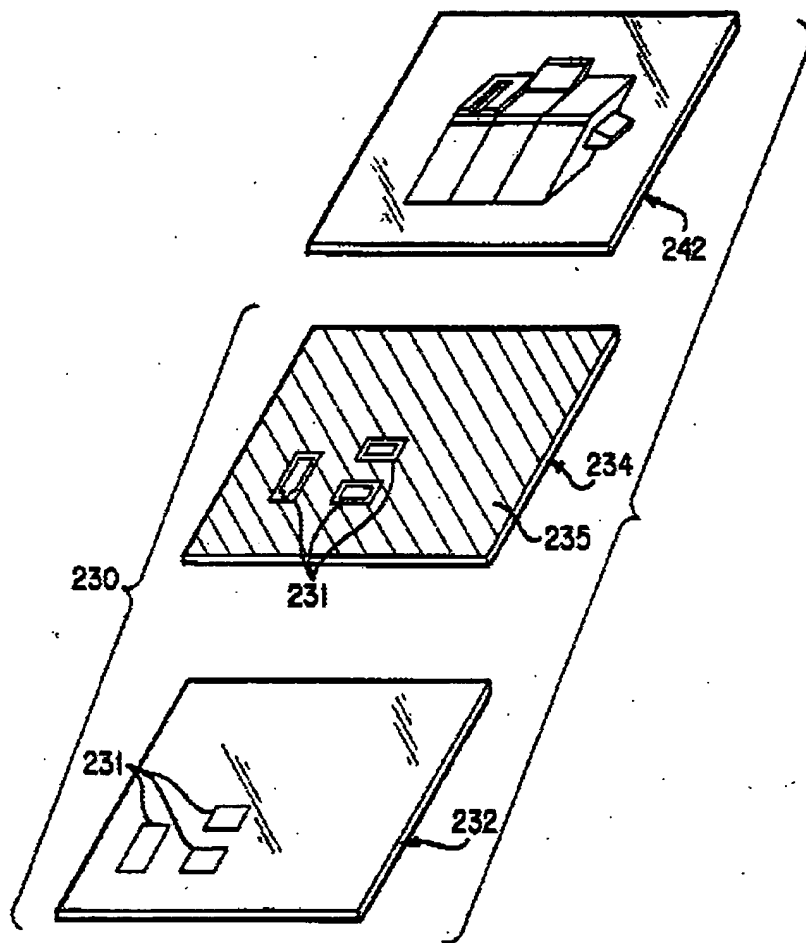


FIG. 3

Dingwall is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add a lower polarizer that includes an opaque black mask (Applicant's light shielding film) to provide greater flexibility by first printing the black mask to define the image elements (or viewing area) with minimal alignment

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concerns to eliminate light leaks and allow the use of a true black mask rather than a gray mask to provide a true dead front.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA with a lower polarizer that includes a light shielding film of Dingwall to provide greater flexibility by first printing the black mask to define the viewing area with minimal alignment concerns to eliminate light leaks and allow the use of a true black mask rather than a gray mask to provide a true dead front.

Please note: Applicant's limitations "to minimize constructive interference at a peripheral portion of the LCD device" are considered intended use and/or performance recitations considered met by the structure rejected above according to Applicant's own enabling disclosure.

As to claims 7 and 8, Dingwall, as combined above, teaches (col. 8, lines 11-28) a liquid crystal display (LCD) device of claim 1, wherein the at least one opaque surround or black mask, 235, (Applicant's light shielding layer) is formed by a photographic process, by offset lithography (Applicant's coating), or by screen printing (Applicant's printed material) black mask materials that absorb the light (col. 8, lines 29-33, and col. 13, lines 25 and 26).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on 07 December 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's ONLY substantive arguments are as follows:

- (1) Regarding base claim 6, applied prior art does not teach the claimed color filter and lower polarizer including a light shielding layer.
- (2) There is no motivation to combine Dingwall.
- (3) Dependent claims are allowable because they directly or indirectly depend from an allowable base claim.

Examiner's responses to Applicant's ONLY arguments are as follows:

- (1) It is respectfully pointed out that APA provides the claimed color filter and the claimed shape and location of the light shielding layer. Dingwall was applied to teach an opaque black mask printed on a polarizer with motivation to combine per rejections above.
- (2) It is respectfully pointed out that Dingwall was applied to teach an opaque black mask printed on a polarizer with motivation to combine per rejections above. Dingwall clearly teaches the use of a large peripheral area light shield that would obviously minimize constructive interference at a peripheral portion of the LCD device.

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Examiner considers Dingwall to be highly relevant and applicable prior art with a clearly stated motivation of providing a true dead front [Applicant's minimize constructive interference at a peripheral portion of the LCD device].

(3) It is respectfully pointed out that in so far as Applicant has not argued rejection(s) of the limitations of dependent claim(s), Applicant has acquiesced said rejection(s).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated any new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L. Rude whose telephone number is (571) 272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

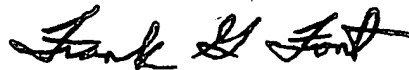
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



tlr

Timothy L Rude
Examiner
Art Unit 2883



Frank G. Font
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